Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Now that the necessity has been brought to the notice of the Government, will the Government at least consider the question of amending the Jail rules?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—May I know, Sir, when the Jail rules were last revised?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—In 1096.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni.—At the time when the revision was made here, what was the practice obtaining in Madras?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Does the Government consider that non-answering on a particular point is the sign of a responsible Government?

Factory Regulation—enactment of.

314. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— Adverting to the Government's statement, "We have returned the Bill to the District Magistrate in order to incorporate a few amendments which have been recently introduced by the Government of India" (Vide question 370, dated 2nd Meenam 1110), will they indicate the date when the Bill was so received by the District Magistrate and the date when the Government got it back in the amended form from the District Magistrate?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—The Bill was received by the District Magistrate on 5th February 1935. It was received back in the Huzur Secretariat on 30th July 1935.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Sir, will the Hon'ble Member inform the House why for the incorporation of a few amendments only in the Factory Bill the District Magistrate took full six months?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—No enquiry has been conducted in that direction.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Does not the Government consider that this period is rather too unconscionable—6 months to incorporate a few amendments by a responsible officer?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Government did not think it so. This is not the only work that the District Magistrate has to do.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen.—So, Government have all ready found an explanation for the delay.

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—Government did not think it necessary to call for the explanation of the District Magistrate.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will they kindly ask for it?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—No, it is absolutely unnecessary. The Select Committee have taken 3 months to report.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I am submitting that so far as the progress of this Bill is concerned, there has been an undue, and unconscionable delay in the matter and here is a flagrant case of taking full 6 months' time to incorporate a few amendments and I am asking the Hon'ble Secretary whether he will at least enquire inasmuch as we have brought the matter to the notice of the Government?

Mr. President.—It is now only of historical importance.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Is it not relaxation of duty on the part of Government?

Mr. President.—Much can be said on both sides.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Inasmuch as from the very beginning of this question there has been certain unpardonable delay in the matter, may I know whether the Government intend to promulgate the provisions of the Factory Bill under their emergency powers?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar.—I understand from the Hon'ble Law Member, the Chairman of the Select Committee, that the Select Committee have prepared their report and the report has been with the Hon'ble Member for Cranganur for more than 3 months.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—We are to report only in 3 months. We have to take so much evidence. What I want to say is there are certain sections which the Government think to be innocuous. So, leaving the amendments and other additions in the Bill which we may do later on, may I know whether the Government have any objection to promulgate it under the emergency powers?

Mr. President.—But we cannot ignore the legislature.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I tried to introduce this Bill as early as possible. I told that to the Hon'ble Member over and over again.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—I will give my explanation. We are asked to report on that Bill within 3 months; and ever since

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it was inaugurated in the Council on the 17th day after the introduction in this Council, the Hon'ble Member wanted to report and we were given only 5 days notice. A Bill which was to be reported in 3 months the Hon'ble Member wanted to get it passed within 17 days and that too with a notice of 5 days. Will the Government at least consider the point of convening an additional meeting of this Council, as is done in Travancore, in the near future, the measure being so very important? At least promulgate it under the emergency powers or at least convene an additional meeting so that we may pass it expeditiously.

Mr. President.—I do not think any undertaking can be given on that point.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Have not the Government had occasion to know about this from yesterday's Agenda. It has not sprung upon them as a surprise.

Mr. President.—The Government have done all that it can possibly do. It has now considerably advanced and reached the stage of the appointment of the select committee.

Irregularities in State Museum—action taken regarding them.

315. Mr. P. Raman Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the present Honorary Superintendent of the State Museum was found responsible for any amount due to the credit sales of the Museum during his term of office;

(b) if so, what that amount is;

(c) whether any action has been taken to recover the same from him;

(d) whether any other similar irregularities were found out in the Museum accounts;

(e) what is the nature and extent of such irregularities, if any;

(f) what action has been taken by the Government with regard to all or any of them?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 1,029—15—9.

(c) The amount was recovered from the parties concerned and hence it was not necessary to recover the same from the Honorary Superintendent.

(d) Some other irregularities were found.

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